

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, applicants appreciate the courtesy extended to Patrick Burns, Robert Baer and Charles Kadish in a telephonic interview conducted on May 9, 2005. Examiner David Reese and Examiner Robert Sandy attended the interview. The present rejections were discussed, along with possible amendments of claim 1. The examiners suggested that applicants review Craven USPN 6,666,638. Independent claims 3 and 4 were separately discussed. No agreement was reached.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to define the function of the spaced rings, as discussed at the interview. Applicants have also added the three lobes of canceled claim 4, and an undercut head to claim 1. The undercut head is described on page 3, lines 22-24, and is shown in Figs. 1 and 3. A new dependent claim has been added, as well, defining a shank slot, an example of which is seen in Fig. 5.

Claim 1-8 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of DeHaitre '248 and Godfrey '032. Applicants traverse this rejection because neither reference discloses or suggests the added features of claim 1, namely spaced rings for reducing mushrooming, threads having three radial lobes, and an undercut head. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Fig. 14 of Craven '638 discloses several features of amended claim 1, but does not disclose threads having three radial lobes, or an undercut head. There is no suggestion or motivation to add these features, though known for other applications, to Craven '638. Applicants believe that threads in three radial lobes and an undercut head are useful in

fasteners for composite material because they further reduce mushrooming of composite material when the fastener is used in the composite material. For these reasons, amended claim 1 is allowable over the references of record, including Craven '638.

Claim 3 is allowable for the reasons given with respect to claim 1, and also because claim 3 defines asymmetrical threads. Asymmetrical threads are useful in fasteners for composite material because they improve the fastening ability of the fasteners. This feature is also not disclosed or suggested by Craven '638.

New dependent claim 9 is allowable for the reasons given with respect to claim 1, and because the shank slot recited in claim 9 is also not disclosed or suggested by Craven '638. The fasteners start faster in dense composite material with the shank slot of claim 9.

The other dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given with respect to claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



Patrick G. Burns
Registration No. 29,367

May 16, 2005
300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312.360.0080
Facsimile: 312.360.9315
Customer No. 24978